

sub
D3 1 (2) detecting the presence of an instruction, code or datum, associated with
2 said instruct signal, which is effective at the subscriber station to generate one or more
3 subscriber station specific data or to select and assemble a plurality of specific
4 subscriber station specific data into a signal string;

5 (3) processing at the subscriber station one or more inputted data and
6 performing, in response to said detected instruction, one of:

7 (a) generating one or more subscriber station specific data and
8 communicating said generated one or more subscriber station
9 specific data to a transmitter; and

10 (b) selecting and assembling into a signal string a specific plurality of
11 subscriber specific data and communicating said signal string and
12 said selected specific plurality of subscriber specific data to a
13 transmitter; and

14 (4) transmitting said communicated one or more generated subscriber station
15 specific data or said communicated signal string and specific plurality of subscriber
16 specific data to said one or more remote collection stations.

17 22. The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is input by a
18 subscriber, said method further comprising the steps of:

19 storing a subscriber instruction to receive one or more specific mass medium
20 programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions; and

21 receiving one or more specific mass medium programs, data, news items, or
22 computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction.

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1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is input by a
2 subscriber, said method further comprising the steps of:
3 storing a subscriber instruction to process or present one or more mass medium
4 programs, data, news items, or computer control instructions in a specific fashion; and
5 processing or presenting one or more specific mass medium programs, data,
6 news items, or computer control instructions in accordance with said instruction.

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cont.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein said instruct signal is detected in an
2 information transmission from a data or programming source, said method further
3 comprising the steps of:
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cont.

1 10 programming a processor to respond to an instruct signal communicated from a
11 data or programming source;
12 receiving an information transmission from a data or programming source;
13 inputting at least some of said information transmission to a control signal
14 detector;
15 detecting said instruct signal in said information transmission; and
16 passing said instruct signal to said processor.

17 25. A method of signal processing at a receiver station, said receiver station
18 including a receiver and a processor, said method comprising the steps of:
19 receiving on said receiver identification signals that identify specific signal
20 content for at least one of a plurality of concurrent broadcast or cablecast signal
21 transmissions;
22 providing a comparison signal to said processor;

sub 1 comparing said comparison signal to said identification signals and generating a

D3 2 control signal identifying a desired one of said plurality of broadcast or cablecast signal
3 transmissions;

4 tuning said receiver, based on said generated control signal, to receive said

5 desired one of said plurality of broadcast or cablecast signal transmissions;

6 inputting at least some of said desired signal transmission to said processor; and

7 responding to an instruct signal detected in said desired signal transmission

8 which is effective to control a receiver station apparatus and a code or datum to serve as

9 evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus or of the

10 functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal.

C1 11 26. A method of controlling a remote intermediate data transmitter station to

12 communicate data to one or more receiver stations, with said remote transmitter station

13 including a broadcast or cablecast transmitter for transmitting one or more signals

14 which are effective at a receiver station to instruct a computer or processor, a plurality

15 of selective transmission devices each operatively connected to said broadcast or

16 cablecast transmitter for communicating a unit of data, a data receiver, a control signal

17 detector, and a controller or computer capable of controlling one or more of said

18 selective transmission devices, and with said remote transmitter station adapted to

19 detect the presence of one or more control signals, to control the communication of

20 specific instruct signals in response to detected specific control signals, and to deliver at

21 its broadcast or cablecast transmitter one or more instruct signals, said method of

22 communicating comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving an instruct signal and a code or datum to be transmitted by the remote intermediate data transmitter station and delivering said instruct signal and said code or datum to a transmitter, said instruct signal being operative at a receiver station to control a receiver station apparatus, said code or datum being operative at said receiver station to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

8 (2) receiving one or more control signals which at the remote intermediate

9 data transmitter station operate to control the communication of said instruct signal;
10 and

11 (3) transmitting said one or more control signals to said transmitter before a
12 specific time.

13 27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of embedding a
14 specific one of said one or more control signals in said instruct signal or in an
15 information transmission containing said instruct signal before transmitting said
16 instruct signal to said remote transmitter station.

17 28. The method of claim 26, wherein said specific time is a scheduled time of
18 transmitting said instruct signal or some information associated with said instruct
19 signal from said remote intermediate data transmitter station and said one or more
20 control signals are effective at said remote intermediate data transmitter station to
21 control one or more of said plurality of selective transmission devices at different times.

Sub D3 29. A method of processing signals at a receiver station having a computer

2 and a television monitor to deliver at the television monitor a combined or sequential

3 presentation of a program and a user specific output, said method comprising the steps

4 of:

5 storing user data of interest;

6 receiving from a television programming source an information transmission

7 containing television programming;

C1 8 transferring said television programming to said television monitor and

9 displaying the television programming;

B1 10 detecting in said information transmission one or more instruct signals which are

cont. 11 operative to control a receiver station apparatus and a code or datum to serve as

12 evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a controllable apparatus or of the

13 functioning of said controllable apparatus in response to said instruct signal;

14 controlling said computer based on said detected one or more instruct signals,

15 said step of controlling comprising:

16 (1) selecting a specific portion of said stored user data of interest;

17 (2) communicating said selected specific portion of said stored user

18 data of interest to said television monitor; and subsequently

19 (3) ceasing to communicate said specific portion to said television

20 monitor; and

21 said combined or sequential output of said received television programming and

22 said selected specific portion of said stored user data of interest is delivered at said

23 television monitor in the period of time between said step of communicating said

1 selected specific portion to said television monitor and said step of ceasing to
2 communicate said selected specific portion to said television monitor.

3 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising one from the group consisting
4 of:

5 programming said receiver station to process viewer data of interest and to
6 respond to one or more instruct signals associated with a television program;
7 receiving a command embedded in or associated with a signal that contains a
8 television program;

9 storing a locally input command that designates or specifies one of:

10 (1) a television program to be displayed or recorded;
11 (2) a fashion in which to present a television program or some
12 computer output; and
13 (3) a time in which to display some television programming or
14 computer output;

15 controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of
16 programming or an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling
17 comprising the steps of:

18 (1) assembling a record that includes additional data besides said
19 viewer reaction; and

20 (2) transmitting said record to a remote data collection station;

21 controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of
22 programming or an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling
23 comprising the steps of:

1 (1) detecting a datum that identifies a unit of programming or an
2 image displayed at said television monitor; and
3 (2) transmitting said datum to a remote data collection station;
4 controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of
5 programming or an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling
6 comprising the steps of:

7 (1) storing a datum that identifies a unit of programming or an image
8 displayed at said television monitor; and
9 (2) passing data of the availability, use or usage of programming or an
10 image to a processor or computer that controls the selection or
11 communication of program materials for display at said receiver
12 station; and

13 controlling a processor or computer to process a viewer reaction to a unit of
14 programming or an image displayed at said television monitor, said step of controlling
15 comprising the steps of:

16 (1) controlling a receiver to receive or a storage location to
17 communicate a unit of programming associated with said unit of
18 programming or image or in response to said viewer reaction; and
19 (2) outputting said communicated unit of programming at an output
20 device of said receiver station.

21 31. A method of generating and encoding signals to control a presentation
22 comprising the steps of:

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1 receiving and storing a program that contains video information;
2 receiving an instruction and a code or datum, said instruction having effect at a
3 user station to control a receiver station apparatus, said code or datum having effect at
4 said user station to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct signal to a
5 controllable apparatus or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in response
6 to said instruct signal;

C 7 Cont. 7 encoding said instruction, said step of encoding translating said instruction to a
8 control signal, said control signal for directing a processor at a user station to perform
9 said effect indicated by said instruction with said program;

E 10 storing said control signal from said step of encoding in conjunction with said

Cont. 11 program; and

12 storing said code or datum from said step of receiving in conjunction with said
13 program and said control signal.

C 14 Cont. 14 32. The method of claim 31, wherein supplemental program material is stored
15 at the same location as said processor and said control signal from said step of encoding
16 directs said processor to generate a video overlay that is coordinated with said video
17 information in said program, said method further comprising one step of the group
18 consisting of:

19 storing supplemental program material in conjunction with said program and
20 said control signal; and

21 storing a second control signal in conjunction with said program and said control
22 signal from said step of encoding, said second control signal having effect at a user

sub 1 station to query a remote station or receive supplemental program material in a
D3 2 broadcast or cablecast transmission.

C 3 33. The method of claim 31, wherein said control signal from said step of
cont. 4 encoding directs said processor to generate a video overlay that is coordinated with
6 said video information in said program, said method further one step of the group

consisting of:

7 transmitting a combined video signal from said program and said video overlay
8 generated by said processor over a broadcast or cablecast network to a plurality of
9 receiver stations; and

B 10 transmitting a combined video signal from said program and said video overlay
11 generated by said processor to a co-located video display.

C 12 34. The method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

cont. 13 receiving a second instruction, said second instruction being one of the group

14 consisting of:

15 (1) an instruction which is effective at a user station to generate some
16 output to be associated with said program;

17 (2) an instruction which is effective at a user station to generate some
18 output to be associated with said product, service, or information
19 presentation;

20 (3) an instruction which is effective at a user station to display a
21 combined or sequential presentation of a mass medium program
22 and a user specific datum;

346
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1 (4) an instruction which is effective at a user station to process a user
2 reaction to said program;

3 (5) an instruction which is effective at a user station to communicate to
4 a remote station a query in respect of information to be associated
5 with said program or to enable display of said program;

6 (6) an instruction which is effective at a user station to control a user
7 station to receive information to supplement said program;

8 (7) an instruction which is effective at a user station to process a digital
9 television signal which is separately defined from standard analog
10 television; and

11 (8) an instruction which is effective at a user station to serve as a basis
12 for enabling an output device to display at least some of said
13 program or for enabling a processor to process some executable
14 code.

15 encoding said second instruction, said second step of encoding translating said
16 second instruction to a second control signal, said second control signal for directing
17 said ancillary processor to perform said specified second effect indicated by said second
18 instruction with said program; and

19 storing said second control signal from said second step of encoding in
20 conjunction with said program

35. The method of claim 31, further having one the group consisting of:

embedding said control signal in the non-visible portion of a television signal;

1 embedding a code in said program that enables a computer or controller to
2 control a presentation of said program in accordance with said control signal;
3 communicating a program unit identification code and storing said program unit
4 identification code at a storage location associated with said program; and
5 communicating to and storing at a storage location associated with said program
6 some information to evidence an availability, use, or usage of said program at a user
7 station.

8 36. A method of controlling a network of a plurality of receiver stations each
9 of which includes a broadcast or cablecast signal receiver, at least one processor, a
10 signal detector, said signal detector adapted to receive signals from a broadcast or
11 cablecast signal, and said processor programmed to respond to signals from said
12 detector, and said method of controlling comprising the steps of:

13 (1) receiving at a broadcast or cablecast transmitter station an instruct signal
14 which is effective at said plurality of receiver stations to control a receiver station
15 apparatus and a code or datum to serve as evidence of the passing of said instruct
16 signal to a controllable apparatus or of the functioning of said controllable apparatus in
17 response to said instruct signal;

18 (2) transferring said instruct signal and said code or datum from said
19 transmitter station to a transmitter;

20 (3) receiving one or more control signals at said transmitter station, said
21 control signals designating at least one receiver station of said plurality of receiver
22 stations in which said instruct signal is addressed; and

sub 1 (4) transferring said one or more control signals from said transmitter station
D3 2 to a transmitter, said transmitter station broadcasting or cablecasting said instruct
3 signal, said code or datum, and said one or more control signals to said plurality of
4 receiver stations.

5 37. The method of claim 36, wherein said instruct signal or said control signal
6 is embedded in the non-visible portion of a television signal or a multichannel
7 broadcast or cablecast signal that contains video.

8 38. The method of claim 36, wherein said one or more control signals
9 identifies two of said plurality of receiver stations asynchronously and each of said two
10 receiver stations receive and respond to said instruct signal asynchronously.

11 39. The method of claim 36, wherein a switch communicates signals
C 12 selectively from a receiver and a memory or recorder to a transmitter, said method
13 further comprising one from the group consisting of:

14 detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct
15 communication;
16 determining a specific signal source from which to communicate a signal to a
17 transmitter;
18 controlling said switch to communicate a signal to said transmitter in response to
19 a signal
20 which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct communication;
21 controlling said switch to communicate a signal from a selected signal source;
22 and

sub D3 1 controlling said switch to communicate to said memory or recorder a signal

2 which is effective at the receiver station to instruct.

3 40. The method of claim 36, wherein a controller controls a switch to
4 communicate to a transmitter a selected signal, further comprising one from the group
5 consisting of:

6 detecting a signal which is effective at the transmitter station to instruct
7 transmission;

C1 8 inputting to said controller a signal which is effective to control said switch;

cont. 9 controlling said switch to communicate one or more signals according to a
10 transmission schedule;

cont. 11 controlling said switch to communicate from a specific one of a plurality of signal
12 sources; and

C1 13 controlling said switch to communicate a signal to a selected one of a plurality of
14 transmitters.

sub D4 15 41. The method of claim 36, further comprising one from the group consisting
16 of:

17 transmitting to a receiver station one or more data that designate a time or a
18 channel of transmission of said instruct signal or that specify the title of or some subject
19 matter contained in a unit of mass medium programming or data associated with said
20 instruct signal; and

21 transmitting to a receiver station a control signal to cause said receiver station to
22 tune to a broadcast or cablecast transmission containing a specific instruct signal.